

URBAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING  
MINUTES

April 3, 2003  
ACWMD Headquarters  
12300 Lower Azusa Road  
Arcadia California

**In Attendance:**

Ray Smith, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures  
Jim Hartman, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures  
William Calicchia, L.A. County Sheriff Dept.  
Carol Tubelis, City of Agoura Hills  
Leo Fisher, USDA Wildlife Services, Kern County  
William R. Taber IV, Inland Valley Human Society SPCA  
Joe Bennett, USDA-APHIS - Wildlife Services  
John Hurley, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures  
Alan Merrifield, California Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association  
Charles Miller, Southeast Area Animal Control Authority  
Duane Schnabel, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Joe Decsuyenaese, L.A. County Regional Planning Commission  
Meg Breit, City of Glendora Animal Control  
Jennifer Hodgen, Pasadena Humane Society - SPCA  
Kathleen Ritner, L.A. County Department of Parks & Recreation  
Martin Wall, California Department of Fish and Game  
John Embery, L.A. County Department of Animal Care and Control  
Dan Fox, Animal Pest Management  
Arturo Berumen, L.A. County Chief Administrative Office, Office of Unincorporated Area Services  
Seth Riley, National Park Service, Sta. Monica Mountains  
Cassity Bromley, National Park Service, Sta. Monica Mountains  
Dr. Karen Ehnert, L.A. County Dept. of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health, Rabies Control Program  
Joe Ramirez, L.A. Dept. of Health Services, Vector Management  
Janet Berry, City of West Covina  
Michelle Cullens, Mountain Lion Foundation and On the Edge  
Andrea Gullo, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority  
Wendell Bowers, L.A. City, Animal Services  
Troy Boswell, L.A. City, Animal Services  
Dr. Sabrina Drill, University of California Cooperative Extension  
Kim Bosell, Monrovia Canyon Park  
Susan Immer, Monrovia Canyon Park  
Mollie Hogun, The Nature of Wildworks  
Steve Harris, Mountains Restoration Trust  
Kristeen Penrod, South Coast Wildlands Project  
Ralph Osborne, Bird Barrier  
Michael Pearson, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures

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The first Urban Wildlife Management Association meeting was opened by Ray Smith, at 10:08 a.m. It was announced that the meeting qualified for 2 hours Dept. of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) approved continuing education (CE) hours. Where appropriate, DPR CE hours will be requested for subsequent meetings. Ray gave a brief overview of the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, for those who were not familiar with it.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of an association of professionals, or other “stakeholders”, dedicated to discovering ways to reduce human/wildlife conflicts was introduced. The group was reminded that the association as such does not exist yet, but this was the first meeting to begin its establishment. The investigation into the formation and benefits of such an association was ordered by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

## 2. MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Ray read a suggested mission statement to the group as follows:

*“The Los Angeles County Urban Wildlife Management Association (UWMA) consists of stakeholders with an interest in urban, native wildlife issues. It includes government agencies, humane organizations, land managers, private groups, etc. The main mission of the UWMA is to attempt to find ways to reduce human/wildlife conflicts in Los Angeles County through increased cooperation, education, outreach, and research.”*

Some suggested goals and objectives were:

- Through regular meetings, enhance interagency understanding, communication and cooperation.
- Share expertise.
- Maintain/enhance native biodiversity while minimizing impacts and risks to people, domestic animals, and the environment.
- Reduce conflicts with urban native wildlife.

## 3. DEFINING WILDLIFE

Ray recommended that the association confine its focus to native vertebrates, so no feral cats, dogs, pigeons, starlings, commensal rodents, insects, etc.

## 4. WHAT KINDS OF THINGS THE UWMA MIGHT DO

- Investigate and test alternate control methods for impact reduction such as repellents, exclusion, etc.
- Produce news articles (local newspapers, the unincorporated area *Community Connection*, etc.)
- Produce informational packets for foothill dwellers and others.
- Develop a directory of professional services related to native urban wildlife (bats, etc.)

- Develop integrated plans to address wildlife problems in certain areas.
- Apply for grants to fund research, outreach, etc.
- Propose legislation.
- Investigate/promulgate legal “adoption” avenues (desert tortoises, etc.)
- Press releases.
- Radio shows?
- Accept/manage mitigation money?

What will be expected of the members? Mostly just support for the Association by attending the meetings and while there, offering expertise, experiences, suggestions, etc. As the Association moves forward, there will be opportunities to do more for those who want to. It is not anticipated that the group will have any regulatory or enforcement power.

## 5. STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Since it is expected that the Association may eventually be engaged in activities like applying for grants, preparing brochures, approving/disapproving projects, etc., a formal structure allowing members to vote will be required. In order to accomplish this, Ray recommended the group adopt a mutually developed MOU. Ray has a reasonably good framework for one and will send it out electronically a week or two before the next meeting.

## 6. PARTICIPATION

Is this for you? The group will almost certainly consist of members with divergent opinions on many issues. Hopefully, the main focus of the group will be on things we all agree on. Those who feel they may not be capable of meeting/working alongside someone with opinions different from theirs should probably not be a part of this organization. Is there anyone else who should be included? If you know of an organization or individual you think should be included, you can have them contact Ray Smith to be placed on the e-mail notification list.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 7, 2003**, at 10 a.m, at this same location.

## 7. NEXT MEETING

At the next meeting, the draft of the MOU will be discussed, and we will begin to form the structure of the Association. Also, other times and meeting places will be decided on. Bring suggestions if you have them.

## 8. DISCUSSION AND WRAP UP

There were quite a few questions about the kinds of things the group might do. The attendees were reminded that this was only the first meeting, and that once the Association gets going, the voting members can take it in any direction they choose!

There was some discussion about who should be able to attend the meetings. Ray's opinion was that, although the meetings will be open to the public, actual membership should be limited to professionals or other "stakeholders" with an interest in urban native wildlife issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by Rose Santos, Secretary